



Tapu'itea

...ina ia manino le folauga.

Friday
June 16,
2006

OFFICIAL AMERICAN SAMOA GOVERNMENT WEEKLY NEWSLETTER Vol. I, No. 12

Governor Togiola launches Future Political Status Study Commission

Governor Togiola Tulafono took part in the official launch of the Future Political Status Study Commission at the Senate chambers today, Monday, June 5th, where he told the eleven commissioners that the bulk of the hard work ahead for them is to research whether American Samoa wants to continue under the current century-old political status or make changes based on the Territory's ability to stand on its own.

"For the last 106 years, American Samoa has been under the same political status that was agreed upon by our forefathers through the signing of a deed of cession that protected our islands and our people by the United States," said Governor Togiola. "Now we ask ourselves: What do we want for the next 106 years? What will we decide for our future generations? Where do we go from here?"

Governor Togiola expressed his thanks to the eleven commissioners for accepting their appointments and the challenge of a difficult and time-consuming task that comes with public scrutiny.

"I will pray for the job that you will perform and its success because it will be hard, but know in your hearts that at the end the Territory will bear fruits of your labor because what you decide and recommend to our people is important to the future of American Samoa, and I have the utmost confidence that you will decide what is best for our people," said Governor Togiola. "I ask you to be strong and have faith in the tasks ahead of you. Such undertaking comes with tough critics equipped with microscopes targeting qualifications and roles of members and the commission. Do not allow the concerns of the public to sway your decisions. If you are true to your findings, our people will have an easy task when they go to vote to decide. If not, our people will be kept in the dark and your efforts will be useless."

(Continued on page 2)

Governor opens Western Pacific Fishery Council meeting

(Press Release) - Governor Togiola Tulafono opened the Western Pacific Regional Fishery Management Council (WPRFMC) Conference yesterday at the Convention Center by noting the Council meeting is being held in the territory at a time when the tuna canneries in Pago Pago face an uncertain future.

Given the uncertain future of the canneries, Gov. Togiola said he was disappointed that the federal Community Demonstration Projects Program (CDPP) has not been funded for the coming year. The CDPP assists local communities in the U.S. Pacific Islands to develop fisheries projects and is authorized by the Magnuson-Stevens Fisheries Conservation and Management Act.

Togiola encouraged the Council to consider ways to assist American Samoa in diversifying its fisheries.

Following his opening remarks, the governor presented winners of the Council-sponsored American Samoa Archipelago Ecosystem poster contest with prizes.

More than 100 students in local schools from kindergarten through 12th grade participated in the contest, which focused on efforts to change the approach to federal fisheries management from species-based Fishery Management Plans (FMPs) to place-based Fishery Ecosystem Plans (FEPs).

A Fishers Forum focusing on the role of communities in FEPs convene at 6 p.m. at the Utulei Convention Center to promote public participation in the fisheries management process.

The Council met through Thursday to discuss management of fisheries in federal waters of the U.S. Pacific islands (i.e., 3 to 200 miles from shore), which includes Hawaii, Guam, the Northern Mariana Islands and eight U.S. Pacific remote island areas (e.g., Johnston, Baker, Midway, Palmyra, etc.) as well as American Samoa.

The Council is scheduled to vote on measures to reduce overfishing of bigeye and yellowfin tuna in the Pacific and on options for modifying the process for closing the Hawaii longline swordfish fishery should it reach its annual allowable interactions with sea turtles.

On Thursday, the Council is scheduled to vote on matters related to the Northwestern Hawaiian Islands (NWHI) fisheries, including a proposed pelagic limited entry program, designation of a fishing year, compensation for those who may be impacted by regulations implemented by the proposed NWHI National Marine Sanctuary, the importance to NWHI fishermen of the weather buoy located within the proposed NWHI Sanctuary boundaries, NWHI fisheries data, potential closure of the fisheries and the Council role in future ecosystem management plans for the NWHI.

For more information, contact the Council at (808) 522-8220, info.wpcouncil@noaa.gov or www.wpcouncil.org

GET A FREE ASG EMAIL ADDRESS

ON: amsamoa.gov.as

Email your name, department, current email address and the new email address you want to: tapu'itea@amsamoa.gov.as

HISTORICAL NOTES

By: Stan Sorensen, Historian, Office of the Governor

On June 7, 1943, Captain Edwin Taylor Pollock, 14th naval governor of American Samoa (March 1, 1922--September 4, 1923), was buried with full military honors at Arlington National Cemetery at 11:00 a.m., following funeral services "at the Church of the Covenant, 18th and N Streets, NW, Washington, D.C., with the Reverend Albert Joseph McCartney officiating." Pallbearers included retired Rear Admirals Horatio G. Gillmor, Harley H. Christy and John D. Beuret, retired Marine Corps Brigadier General Rufus Lane, and retired Navy Captains Adelbert Althouse and Chester C. Wells.

On June 8, 1867, Midshipman Benjamin Franklin Tilley (who would become American Samoa's first naval governor on February 17, 1900), graduated first in his class at the U.S. Naval Academy in Annapolis, Maryland, and was commissioned as an Ensign with the serial number 103.

On June 8, 1922, the "Transportation Services of American Samoa" began. One bus ran from Pago Pago to Utulei to Leone. By 1927, the fare westward was 40 cents to Nu'uuli, 60 cents to Mapusaga and 75 cents to Leone. Eastward, the fare was 40 cents to Lauli'i and 75 cents to Faga'itua.

On June 10, 1888, Elder Joseph Henry Dean, his wife Florence, and their four-month-old baby, Jasher, set sail from Hawaii on the *Alameda* to serve a mission for the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints on the island of Aunu'u, Samoa.

On June 10, 1919, Commander Warren Jay Terhune succeeded Commander John Martin Poyer and became American Samoa's 12th naval governor (until his suicide on November 3, 1920). Commander Terhune was the only American Samoan governor who died in office.

On June 10, 1976, Congressman Philip Burton (D-CA) introduced a bill to make it possible for American Samoa's Governor and Lieutenant Governor to be popularly elected rather than appointed by the Secretary of the Interior. The bill passed the U.S. House of Representatives by a landslide vote of 377 to 1.

On June 11, 1942, Japan's Imperial General Headquarters postponed the capture of New Caledonia, Fiji and Samoa for two months.

On June 11, 1984, American Samoa's *Fono* (Legislature) denied Governor Peter Tali Coleman's bid for a third term. Later in the year, this decision was upheld by the High Court and the Secretary of the Interior.

On June 13, 1722, Dutch navigator Admiral Jacob Roggeveen, after "discovering" Easter Island and several islands in the Tuamotu group, arrived in Samoa. Roggeveen's three ships were the *Arend*, under Captain Jan Koster; the *Thienhoven*, under Captain Cornelis Bouman, and the *Afrikaansche Galei*, commanded by Captain Roelof Rosendaal. They sighted Rose Atoll, which they named "Vuyle Eylandt" (Bird Island). On the following days, they sighted all of the Samoan islands, except for Savai'i, Apolima and Manono. Roggeveen named the Manu'a group the "Isles of Bouman" after Cornelis Bouman. He named Tutuila "Thienhoven Island" and 'Upolu "Groeningen Island."

On June 15, 1917, the 350-ton German steamer *SS Staatssekretär Solf*, which had sought refuge in Pago Pago Harbor just after the beginning of World War I on August 6, 1914, and had been captured by the U.S. Navy on April 7, 1917 when the United States entered the war, was cleaned and refitted in Pago Pago and was placed on the Navy's register as USS *Samoa*, thus becoming the first U.S. Naval vessel to bear that name.

Governor Togiola launches Future Political Status Study Commission

(continued from page 1)

Governor Togiola said there is only a short amount of time of about 10 to 12 months for the commission to convene and offer recommendations to the people. He reminded the commission of the most important lesson ascertained from the biblical story of Noah's Ark in preparation for the Great Flood.

"It all comes down to the conclusion of 'don't miss the boat,'" said Governor Togiola. "There is only one boat for all of us. Not one for the people and one for the commission. It's the same boat."

Commissioners include: Manu'a District Governor-Tufele Li'a, chairman; Sen. Tualo Manaia Fruean, vice-chairman; Sen. Fai'ivae Apelu Galea'i, Sen. Salanoa Aumoeualogo, Rep. Savali Talavou Ale, Rep. Gaoteote Palaie Tofau, Judge Lefiti Atiulagi Pese, Dr. Minareta Thompson, Lt. Col. Mapu Jamias and Fainu'ulelei Falefatu Alailima-Utu.

Earlier today, Mrs. To'aga Seumalo, Head of Nursing at LBJ Hospital, was appointed a member of the commission to replace HTC Malepeai Setu, who resigned last week for personal reasons.

Public Notice

In accordance with the ASCA 16.2002 and rule codified in sections 13.02002 and 13.0203 and 4.1005 (Rule #02-2006), the American Samoa Board of Higher Education and the American Samoa Community College wishes to inform the public that beginning the Fall term of 2006, the tuition flat rate currently charged to students will be eliminated.

The policy in the ASCC Catalog 2004-2006 (Pg. 64) would be amended as follows:

Tuition at the American Samoa Community College is \$45 per credit hour for residents and \$60 for per credit hour for non-resident students.

Interested persons may obtain information about tuition rates at the ASCC Office of the President from May 30th, 2006 to June 30th, 2006 from 8:00 am to 4:00 pm on regular workdays. The phone number is 699.8886 or 699.9155 ext. 350.

Also, written comments about these tuition rates can be submitted by facsimile to Dr. Adele Satele-Galea'i at 699.6259, email at p.morris@ascc.as, or by mail at American Samoa Community College, PO Box 2609, American Samoa 96799. The deadline for submission is 30 days of this notice.

Governor Togiola responds to a petition to impose censorship on the movie The Da Vinci Code

“The constitution and laws regarding inalienable rights of freedom of speech, freedom of expression, and freedom of publication is very clear as guaranteed and protected under the American Samoa Constitution and the Constitution of the United States of America.”

“I am of the opinion that we must respect the laws of our land and also the Constitution of the United States, which protects all of these rights, which includes the right for the screening of the motion picture The Da Vinci Code without restrictions by government,” said Governor Togiola Tulafono in a letter to the Reverend Elia Tavai, before his departure for Honolulu on Wednesday, June 14th, in response to the petition that some members of the clergy had presented to the Governor, asking that the Governor prohibit the importation of the movie The Da Vinci Code, and its contemplated screening later this month.

Governor Togiola further commented on the issue as follows:

“The legal question as to the application of the United States Constitution to American Samoa and the protection of our natural or fundamental rights and freedoms was long settled by the High Court in the case of William (Puka) Bill Brown vs. American Samoa Government. In the Puka Bill case, the Attorney General arrested Puka Bill for making comments in a bar that he was going to shoot the Governor (H. Rex Lee). Puka Bill was charged with making threatening remarks against the Governor. The High Court determined that Puka Bill’s rights to freedom of speech were violated by the arrest and prosecution. The High Court further held that all the “fundamental rights” guaranteed under the Constitution of the United States do apply in American Samoa.

The federal court in Washington D.C. in the case of Jake King vs. ASG, also determined the same thing and held that all “fundamental rights” guaranteed in the United States Constitution apply to American Samoa, even though not all provisions of the U.S. Constitution do not.

Our own American Samoa Constitution guarantees the right to free speech, press and religion. These constitutional provisions prohibit us from interfering with the publication and sale of the book; the showing of the movie, and the publication and sale of any other media that contains the book or the movie.”

The governor further stated: “The public interest and concerns that are being displayed and voiced regarding “The Da Vinci Code” are quite fascinating considering that the movie is based on a novel, or a fictional story, that we should not mistake as fact. I truly believe that our people have the intellectual capacity and sophistication to separate fiction from facts. I have absolute confidence that we will not see a mass exodus of our people to join a new religion with beliefs such as those presented in the movie, after seeing it. And I am thoroughly convinced after listening to our people that our community who will be seeing the movie and reading the book will view it as what it is: entertainment.”

ASG RADIO PROGRAM

With: Governor Togiola Tulafono

Saturdays @ 7a.m.

**On: Showers of Blessings-FM
104.7**

Call 699-8123 or 699-8124

Share important activities

with our ASG workforce as well as the citizens of American Samoa.

**Email your articles,
announcements, pictures or other
information to:**

tapuitea@amsamoa.gov.as

Deadline for submissions is Thursday @ noon.

Governor Togiola sends condolences to Samoa on passing of Afioga Faumuina Anapapa, member of Council of Deputies

I am deeply saddened by the news that Afioga Faumuina Anapapa, member of Samoa's Council of Deputies, has passed away. The prayers of all American Samoa go out to his family and the people of the Independent state of Samoa.

To His Highness Malietoa Tanumafili II, Samoa's Head of State, to Prime Minister Tuilaepa Sailele Malielegaoi and his cabinet, I extend to you our deepest sympathies and sorrow for the loss of one of Samoa's fine statesman.

On behalf of the government and people of American Samoa, Mary and I offer our sincere condolences to all of Samoa and our best thoughts to his family.

To Mrs. Akata Faumuina, to his children, and to the Faumuina family, in the difficult days ahead, it is my hope that you will find strength in the outpouring of sympathy and support from all those who have been touched by your grief. We will continue to pray for your comfort and healing.

TOGIOLA T.A.TULAFONO
Governor of American Samoa

A Walk In Our Shoes

"A Walk In Our Shoes" is about the friendship of young people. Their relationships and the obstacles that they face and the choices they make that change the lives of the young people involved. The stories of youth situations are sewn together in this production and presented as a theatre piece by the Junior Company.

It's senior year for the high schoolers. With about 3 months before graduation, there is a lot happening on and off campus.

Sheldon Tupua of Fogagogo, 17, a junior at Manumalo Baptist High School, is the principal actor, who plays Chris, a soccer star at school. Ku'uipo Trepanier—a 17 year-old from Ili'ili and a junior at Leone High School— plays Angelina, a very bright student with a college scholarship after graduation. She is madly in love with Chris and looks forward to going to college.

Ruth Soli of Nu'uuli, a senior at Tafuna High School, takes on the role of Tatiana, a demanding and overbearing girl who struggles with her grades, and reputation, and actually sees herself as Chris' girlfriend.

Mia, played by 17 year-old Tafuna High School senior Salina Vai, and her boyfriend, Arona —Daniel Saifoloi of Sa'ilele, 13, eighth grader at Kanana Fou Elementary— have made a pact, and a plan, to attend Brigham Young University together. However, Arona secretly applies to Texas State University because it's the alma mater for most of his family.

Tom (Vani Matthew Atafua of Nu'uuli, 7th grader at Manulele Tausala Junior High in Tafuna) and Ioane (Roman "Puka" Fetuao of Vaitogi, 7th grader at Lupelele Elementary in Ili'ili) are best buddies and will soon have to part ways and go their separate ways to achieve their goals.

As the stories and struggles unfold, Angelina comes to the truthful reality that she can't use her scholarship because of what happened "that night." She tells Chris that she is pregnant. Chris is now confronted with a situation of not knowing where to turn to. He has his own goals and now has to grow up and accept the consequences of his actions and the choices that he made.

Tatiana is taken aback upon hearing of the rumors that Angelina will have Chris' baby and tries not to get lost in the crowd.

And for Tom and Ioane, the fear of separation as buddies has made distrust surface. It's a tough decision to make about their friendship and what the future holds for them in achieving their goals as individuals.

Also in the cast: Aigofie Aigofie Junior of Ili'ili, a 6th grader at Lupelele Elementary, who displayed versatility in the characters of Teacher, Dad and gang member.

It is truly an island theatre production with the ukulele, wooden drums, and dancing that makes it uniquely an island performance.

The young island actors have been trained for a few months by Crossroads Theatre for Youth with the great help from Honolulu Theatre for Youth and through their performances, and they all seem to have benefited greatly from it. CTY, a project of Intersections, Inc., is funded by the U.S. Administration for Native Americans for the purpose of educating and creating awareness of youth and social issues in American Samoa.

